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On Tap

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Water System Emergency Supply and Reliability Projects

In last month's issue of *ON TAP*, we began to share information about the District's three large capital improvement projects intended to improve water supply and improve water storage.

The previous issue of *ON TAP* shared information about improvements to the District's wells. In this issue, we will discuss the District's involvement in a proposed regional water treatment plant.

Baker Regional Water Treatment Facility

This facility has joint participation by many of the south county water agencies (Irvine Ranch Water District, El Toro Water District, Moulton Niguel Water District, Santa Margarita Water District, and Trabuco Canyon Water District). The project will be built in Lake Forest at the previous water treatment facility location used by the Los Alisos Water District (which no longer exists and was absorbed by IRWD). The previous water treatment facility was "mothballed" in the early 1990s due to costly federal treatment upgrade requirements.

This new treatment facility will be a tremendous advantage to the south county districts because it will be able to use a major supply line that is currently underused. This supply of water will come from Lake Matthews, which in turn is supplied predominantly with Colorado River water and some State Water Project water. Engineering estimates show the treatment of this water will be less expensive than treated water

currently supplied by Metropolitan Water District.

Additionally, the treatment facility will be able to take water from Irvine Lake and treat it for delivery into the drinking water systems of the participating agencies. Doing so, in effect, makes Irvine Lake a valuable "emergency storage reservoir" for portions of south county.

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) is the lead agency in the treatment facilities design and pending construction. This is largely due to the fact that the location of the facility is in IRWD and will be built on property now owned by IRWD.

TCWD's participation in the plant is relatively minor compared to the other agencies, but valuable to TCWD because this source of water will diversify TCWD's water supply portfolio.

The overall supply capacity of the treatment facility will be 34.5 cubic feet per second (CFS) of water. TCWD's portion will be 2.0 CFS which is approximately 5.8% ownership in the treatment facility.

The project engineers are finishing the final design stages at this time. The engineering estimates for the cost of the project, including design fees, are \$52,500,000. TCWD's cost is projected to be \$3,110,000.

It is anticipated the water treatment facility will be on line in late fall of 2011.

These two drawings were part of the design

TCWD'S ON TAP

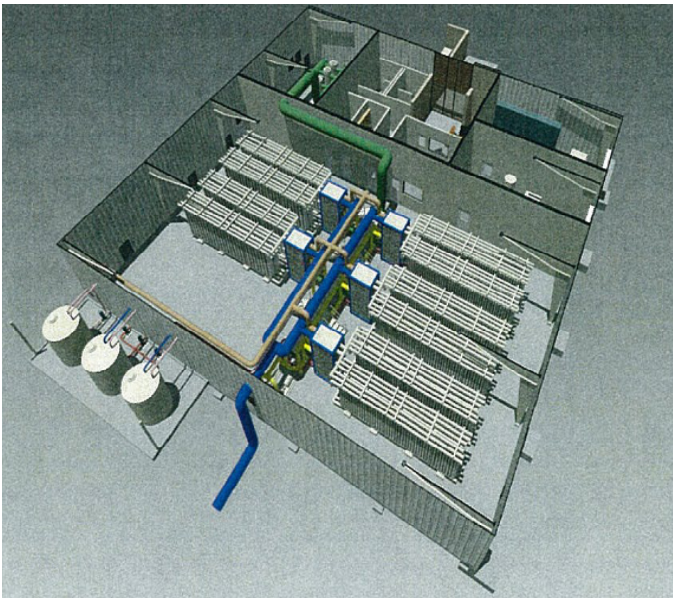
Board Highlights

- **July 15, 2009** – Adopted the FY 2009/2010 Water Standby Assessment
- Directed staff to prepare responses to the Orange County Grand Jury Reports concerning water supply issues
- Directed staff to commence Proposition 218 procedures relating to the Water Reliability and Emergency Storage Fee and Ad Valorem Property Tax Diversion Fee
- Adopted a resolution fixing the CalPERS employer's contribution rate
- Adopted a resolution approving the FY 2009/2010 assessments for RD 5
- Approved the Sewer System Management Plan
- Supported the "Draft" White Paper regarding the potential formation of a South Orange County Water Authority
- Determined to support and endorse a TCWD Director's candidacy for the vacant position on the Board of Directors of the Municipal Water District of Orange County, Division 6
- Received Status Updates Relating to the California Drought and Water Conservation Efforts, the Baker Regional Water Treatment Plant, and the Rose Canyon and Lang Wells Upgrades to Treatment Facilities Projects
- Conducted Closed Sessions

engineer's submission during the bid process. While the final product may differ to some degree, the concept conveys a good idea about how the Regional Baker Treatment Facility may appear when completed.



Existing Site for the Baker Regional Treatment Facility. Engineer's proposal about new treatment facilities.



Artist's conceptual drawing of the Baker Regional Water Treatment Facility.

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We welcome your comments, suggestions and questions. Please call or write Sharon E. Smith, Editor

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